

STMA 593
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Dead Sea Scrolls

ThSSu: October 26, 28-29
Sa: 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.; Su: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

THIS SYLLABUS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO REFLECT THE CORRECT PAGES IN THE REVISED EDITION OF A NEW TRANSLATION: THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS {PLUS A FEW CHANGES IN #VII, “PRAYER AND LITURGICAL TEXTS”.

****TO HELP YOU IDENTIFY DIFFERENCES, I HAVE PUT THEM ALL IN BOLD TYPE****

Description of Course:

A brief introduction to the phenomenon of the Dead Sea Scrolls {DSS}, including their discovery, the archeology of the site, the publication and interpretation of the texts and their significance. Much of the information about discovery and archeology can be found in the Science Center exhibit, as well as the importance of new scientific approaches to the materials. So during the time this class meets students will have the opportunity to focus attention on the texts themselves (by reading all or parts of them) and important ideas and religious notions connected with them.

Goals and Objectives of the Course:

Students will come away from this course with a broad knowledge of the field of study and an ability to use the three books assigned for the course as resources in the future for their own study and presentation to others.

Students will gain knowledge of the contribution of the DSS to our understanding of early Jewish interpretation of the Hebrew Bible.

Students will be able to identify several areas in which the DSS serve as proximate background for understanding of New Testament texts and early Christianity.

Procedures for Course

Students will use all three books for the course, but in different ways. The collection of texts

Michael Wise, Martin Abegg, Jr., and Edward Cook. **The Dead Sea Scrolls : A New Translation**. San Francisco : Harper San Francisco, 2006. [WAC] was chosen because this is the translation referred to in the introduction and interpretation of VanderKam and Flint. Whenever you see WAC with a page number in that book, you can refer to the book of translations. This book also contains excellent introductions to many of the texts (e.g. “A Reader’s Guide to the Qumran Calendar Texts,” pp. 296-301).

The introductory text chosen for the course presents a very comprehensive and judicious view of the field of study, and serves as a guide to further study.

James C. VanderKam and Peter Flint. **The Meaning of the Dead Sea scrolls : Their Significance for Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus, and Christianity**. San Francisco, Calif. : Harper San Francisco, 2002. [VKF] Although I have suggested reading the entire book, I will suggest sections of the book that might

be most helpful for the beginning stages. A major goal of the course time together will be to develop an appropriate way of using this book.

The third book for the course is an invaluable guide to the DSS through the format of question and answer. Although it was published in 1992, it remains an excellent guide for the progress in the field to that time (and much has not changed in the intervening years).

Joseph A. Fitzmyer. **Responses to 101 questions on the Dead Sea scrolls.** New York : Paulist Press, 1992. [JAF]

Very Useful Websites for Information on the DSS; please check them out.

<http://www.pacsci.org/dss/background.html> (DSS at Seattle Science Center)

<http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/> (Orion Center for DSS study, Hebrew University Jerusalem)

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/scrolls/toc.html> (Library of Congress DSS site)

<http://www.imj.org.il/eng/shrine/> (Shrine of the Book, Jerusalem, Israel Museum)

TOPICS and READINGS FOR THE CLASS SESSIONS

[These should be the most helpful readings; use Fitzmyer as it is helpful]

I) **“Welcome to Qumran”: Discovery, Archeology, Site, Dating Questions (with power point presentation)**

–please bring with you a list of three things that most interest you after the Science Center Exhibit and reading texts . . . and three to five questions.

Readings: [VKF, c. 1, pp. 3-18; c. 2, pp. 20-28; c. 3, pp. 34-54, c. 4, pp. 55-62].
[WAC, Intro, pp. 3-26, 35-43].

II) **Dead Sea Scrolls and the Scriptures (Hebrew Bible), its Text and “Canon”**

Readings: [VKF, c. 5 (skim this chapter, but make note of the principal terms); c. 6 (read carefully pp. 103-140, 147-153) and c. 7 (read pp. 154-162, 168-169, 172-181).

III) **Survey of Nonbiblical Scrolls**

Reading: [VKF, pp. 209-232 for an overview] [WAC, pp. 49-73 (selections from Damascus Document), WAC, pp. 112-126 (selections from “Community Rule”/ Manual of Discipline)].

IV) **Dead Sea Scrolls and the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha**

Readings: [VKF, c. 8 pp. 182-204] Pay special attention to “new” Psalms 151, 154, 155 and to the Books of First Enoch and Jubilees [VKF, pp. 293-302]

- V) **Time and Calendars in the DSS: a central identifying factor**
Readings: [WAC, pp. 379-385, 393-396, 403-404, 406-409] [VKF, pp. 232-234, 256-260] Goal is to determine why issues of calendar were so important in these texts, and to this group of Jews.
- VI) **Theology and Belief System of Qumran Group**
Readings: [VKF, pp. 255-256, 260-273; try to identify ‘beliefs’ in causes of sin, angels, covenant, end of days, Messiahs]
- VII) **Prayers and Liturgical Texts from Qumran Collection**
Readings: [VKF, pp. 234-236]; I suggest you locate and read some of the following texts:
 Songs [Angelic] for the Holocaust of the Sabbath, etc. [4Q400-407] [WAC, **462-470**]
 Prayer for ‘King’ Jonathan 4Q448 [WAC, pp. **506-507**]
Thanksgiving Songs {Hodayot} [WAC, pp. 170-179]
Hymn to God in 1QS columns 10-11 [WAC, pp. 132-136]
Hymn to the Creator 11QPs^a 26:11-12 [WAC, p. 576]
Daily Prayers 4Q503 [WAC, pp. 520-521]
Words of the Luminaries 4Q504 [WAC, pp. 522-526]
Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice 4Q400–407 [WAC, pp. 462-470]
Covenant Ceremony 1QS 1, 18–2, 18 [WAC, pp. 115-116]
Songs for Protection against Evil Spirits 4Q 510-511 [WAC, pp. 526-529]
- VIII) **DSS and the New Testament: Texts of NT and Jesus**
Readings: [VKF, c. 15: pp. 321-330 (‘sensationalism’ and the Scrolls), 330-332 (John the Baptist and the Scrolls), 332-342 (Jesus and the Scrolls).